

109<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 6395

To ensure an adequate supply of public health professionals, and for other purposes.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 6, 2006

Mr. JEFFERSON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

---

## A BILL

To ensure an adequate supply of public health professionals,  
and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Expanding, Rebuild-  
5 ing, and Improving Access to Qualified Health Care Pro-  
6 fessionals in Hurricanes Katrina and Rita Affected Areas  
7 Act”.

8 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

9 The Congress finds as follows:

1           (1) Studies state the New Orleans area is now  
2 home to one million people, just under the pre-  
3 Katrina population of 1.3 million. But the health  
4 care resources necessary to adequately serve that  
5 level of population have not returned: only half of  
6 the previous 4,000 hospital beds are available; there  
7 is no level I trauma center; there are 34 nursing  
8 homes, down from 63; and 19 clinics, down from 90.

9           (2) According to recent statements in the “New  
10 England Journal of Medicine”, the health care situa-  
11 tion in New Orleans area remains unacceptably  
12 primitive. The absence of chronic care facilities con-  
13 tributes to the lengthening of stay in acute care hos-  
14 pitals whose costs exceed Centers for Medicare &  
15 Medicaid Services reimbursement, and these addi-  
16 tional uncompensated expenses may soon force re-  
17 cently reopened hospital beds to close again. Without  
18 rapid, coordinated, and effective help from govern-  
19 ment agencies, it is feared that disproportionate  
20 human suffering and death will continue to plague  
21 greater New Orleans.

22           (3) According to the Bureau of Health Profes-  
23 sions, National Center for Health Workforce Anal-  
24 ysis, the Louisiana health care system before Hurri-  
25 cane Katrina and Rita was struggling with a short-

1 age of primary care areas in 55 parishes and short-  
2 ages of physician assistants, nurse practitioners,  
3 nurse midwives, dentists, psychologists, and social  
4 workers.

5 (4) Health profession students, starting a new  
6 academic year, were forced to evacuate the city.  
7 Many trainees from Tulane University were relo-  
8 cated to Houston and Galveston in Texas. Less than  
9 a month later, on 24 September, another hurricane,  
10 Rita, hit land near the Louisiana-Texas border.  
11 Many of the 5,000 medical students and doctors in  
12 training in Texas were evacuated again.

13 (5) Prior to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Lou-  
14 isiana had the highest cost of health care in the Na-  
15 tion, but was rated the least healthiest State with  
16 the second highest infant mortality rate, the highest  
17 rate of premature deaths, and the third highest un-  
18 insured rate.

19 (6) After Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Lou-  
20 isiana lost vast amounts of medical services (preven-  
21 tive, primary care, acute, emergency, critical care,  
22 surgical, subspecialty, maternity, gynecologic, family  
23 planning, sexually transmitted disease treatment,  
24 psychiatric/mental health, rehabilitation, administra-  
25 tive, diagnostic imaging, and laboratory).

1           (7) After Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Lou-  
2           isiana lost over 7,500 health care professionals, in-  
3           cluding doctors, nurses, allied health care profes-  
4           sionals, dentists, medial support providers, public  
5           health professionals, behavioral specialists, mental  
6           health workers, and physical therapists.

7           (8) New Orleans' only certified level I trauma  
8           unit is still closed as of October 2006, and the num-  
9           ber of staffed hospital beds in the City of New Orle-  
10          ans was about 60 percent less than before Hurricane  
11          Katrina. Prior to Katrina, 90 clinics were in oper-  
12          ation, including 70 clinics run by the Medical Center  
13          of Louisiana at New Orleans, with the remainder  
14          being federally qualified health centers, mental  
15          health or addictive disorder clinics, or other specialty  
16          clinics. Post-hurricane, 19 clinics were open and  
17          generally operating at less than 50 percent of pre-  
18          Katrina capacity.

19          (9) More than three-fourths of the safety net  
20          clinics in New Orleans remain closed, and many of  
21          those that were open had limited capacity, according  
22          to data gathered by officials.

1 **SEC. 3. HURRICANE KATRINA AND RITA PUBLIC HEALTH**  
2 **WORKFORCE SCHOLARSHIP AND LOAN RE-**  
3 **PAYMENT PROGRAM.**

4 Part E of title VII of the Public Health Service Act  
5 (42 U.S.C. 294n et seq.) is amended by adding at the end  
6 the following:

7 **“Subpart 3—Public Health Workforce Scholarship**  
8 **and Loan Repayment Program**

9 **“SEC. 775. HURRICANES KATRINA AND RITA PUBLIC**  
10 **HEALTH WORKFORCE SCHOLARSHIP PRO-**  
11 **GRAM.**

12 “(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary shall estab-  
13 lish the Hurricanes Katrina and Rita Public Health Work-  
14 force Scholarship Program (referred to in this section as  
15 the ‘Program’) to ensure an adequate supply of public  
16 health professionals to eliminate critical public health pre-  
17 paredness workforce shortages in State and local public  
18 health agencies in areas directly affected by Hurricane  
19 Katrina or Rita.

20 “(b) **ELIGIBILITY.**—To be eligible to participate in  
21 the Program, an individual shall—

22 “(1) be accepted for enrollment, or be enrolled,  
23 as a full-time student—

24 “(A) in an accredited (as determined by  
25 the Secretary) educational institution in a State

1 directly affected by Hurricane Katrina or Rita;  
2 and

3 “(B) in a course of study or program, of-  
4 fered by such institution and approved by the  
5 Secretary, leading to a health professions de-  
6 gree (graduate, undergraduate, or associate) or  
7 certificate, which may include laboratory  
8 sciences, epidemiology, environmental health,  
9 health communications, health education and  
10 behavioral sciences, psychology, physical ther-  
11 apy, gerontology, sociology, health policy, social  
12 work, information sciences, or public adminis-  
13 tration;

14 “(2) be a United States citizen or non-citizen  
15 resident;

16 “(3) submit an application to the Secretary to  
17 participate in the Program; and

18 “(4) sign and submit to the Secretary, at the  
19 time of the submittal of such application, a written  
20 contract (described in subsection (d)) to serve, upon  
21 the completion of the course of study or program in-  
22 volved, for the applicable period of obligated service  
23 in the full-time employment of a Federal, State or  
24 local public health agency, organization, or associa-

1 tion in an area directly affected by Hurricane  
2 Katrina or Rita.

3 “(c) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.—

4 “(1) APPLICATION AND CONTRACT FORMS.—

5 The Secretary shall disseminate application forms  
6 and contract forms to individuals desiring to partici-  
7 pate in the Program. The Secretary shall include  
8 with such forms—

9 “(A) a fair summary of the rights and li-  
10 abilities of an individual whose application is  
11 approved (and whose contract is accepted) by  
12 the Secretary, including in the summary a clear  
13 explanation of the damages to which the United  
14 States is entitled to recover in the case of the  
15 individual’s breach of the contract; and

16 “(B) information relating to the service ob-  
17 ligation and such other information as may be  
18 necessary for the individual to understand the  
19 individual’s prospective participation in the Pro-  
20 gram.

21 “(2) INFORMATION FOR SCHOOLS.—The Sec-  
22 retary shall distribute to health professions schools,  
23 Historically Black Colleges and Universities, His-  
24 panic-serving institutions, Tribal Colleges and Uni-  
25 versities, Asian-American- and Pacific Islander-serv-

1 ing institutions, secondary educational institutions,  
2 and other appropriate accredited academic institu-  
3 tions and relevant Federal, State, local, and tribal  
4 public health agencies, materials providing informa-  
5 tion on the Program and shall encourage such  
6 schools, institutions, and agencies to disseminate  
7 such materials to potentially eligible students.

8 “(3) UNDERSTANDABILITY, AND TIMING.—The  
9 application form, contract form, and all other infor-  
10 mation furnished by the Secretary under this section  
11 shall—

12 “(A) be written in a manner calculated to  
13 be understood by the average individual apply-  
14 ing to participate in the Program;

15 “(B) be made available by the Secretary on  
16 a date sufficiently early to ensure that such in-  
17 dividuals have adequate time to carefully review  
18 and evaluate such forms and information.

19 “(4) SPECIAL CONSIDERATION.—Individuals  
20 who are eligible under subsection (b) shall be pro-  
21 vided special consideration if the individuals are  
22 from medically underserved communities, as defined  
23 in section 799B of the Public Health Service Act  
24 (42 U.S.C. 295p).

1       “(d) CONTRACT.—The written contract (referred to  
2 in this section) between the Secretary and an individual  
3 shall contain—

4           “(1) an agreement on the part of the Secretary  
5 that the Secretary will provide the individual with a  
6 scholarship for a period of years (not to exceed 5  
7 academic years) during which the individual shall  
8 pursue an approved course of study or program to  
9 prepare the individual to serve in the public health  
10 workforce;

11          “(2) an agreement on the part of the individual  
12 that the individual will—

13           “(A) maintain full-time enrollment in the  
14 approved course of study or program described  
15 in subsection (b)(1) until the individual com-  
16 pletes that course of study or program;

17           “(B) while enrolled in the course of study  
18 or program, maintain an acceptable level of aca-  
19 demic standing (as determined under regula-  
20 tions of the Secretary by the educational insti-  
21 tution offering such course of study or pro-  
22 gram); and

23           “(C) immediately upon graduation, serve  
24 in the full-time employment of a Federal, State,  
25 or local public health agency, organization, or

1 association in a position related to the course of  
2 study or program for which the contract was  
3 awarded for a period of time (referred to in this  
4 section as the ‘period of obligated service’)  
5 equal to the greater of—

6 “(i) 1 year for each academic year for  
7 which the individual was provided a schol-  
8 arship under the Program; or

9 “(ii) 3 years;

10 “(3) an agreement by both parties as to the na-  
11 ture and extent of the scholarship assistance, which  
12 may include—

13 “(A) payment of the tuition expenses of  
14 the individual;

15 “(B) payment of all other reasonable edu-  
16 cational expenses of the individual including  
17 fees, books, equipment, and laboratory ex-  
18 penses; and

19 “(C) payment of a stipend of not more  
20 than \$2,400 per month for each month of the  
21 academic year involved (indexed to account for  
22 increases in the Consumer Price Index); and

23 “(4) a provision that any financial obligation of  
24 the United States arising out of a contract entered  
25 into under this section and any obligation of the in-

1       dividual which is conditioned thereon, is contingent  
2       upon funds being appropriated for scholarships  
3       under this section;

4               “(5) a statement of the damages to which the  
5       United States is entitled for the individual’s breach  
6       of the contract; and

7               “(6) such other statements of the rights and li-  
8       abilities of the Secretary and of the individual, not  
9       inconsistent with the provisions of this section.

10       “(e) POSTPONING OBLIGATED SERVICE.—With re-  
11       spect to an individual receiving a degree or certificate from  
12       a school of medicine, public health, nursing, osteopathic  
13       medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, optometry, po-  
14       diatry, pharmacy, psychology, or social work under a  
15       scholarship under the Program, the date of the initiation  
16       of the period of obligated service may be postponed, upon  
17       the submission by the individual of a petition for such  
18       postponement and approval by the Secretary, to the date  
19       on which the individual completes an approved internship,  
20       residency, or other relevant public health preparedness ad-  
21       vanced training program.

22       “(f) ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.—

23               “(1) CONTRACTS WITH INSTITUTIONS.—The  
24       Secretary may contract with an educational institu-  
25       tion in which a participant in the Program is en-

1 rolled, for the payment to the educational institution  
2 of the amounts of tuition and other reasonable edu-  
3 cational expenses described in subsection (d)(3).

4 “(2) EMPLOYMENT CEILINGS.—Notwith-  
5 standing any other provision of law, individuals who  
6 have entered into written contracts with the Sec-  
7 retary under this section, while undergoing academic  
8 training, shall not be counted against any employ-  
9 ment ceiling affecting the Department or any other  
10 Federal agency.

11 “(g) BREACH OF CONTRACT.—An individual who  
12 fails to comply with the contract entered into under sub-  
13 section (d) shall be subject to the same financial penalties  
14 as provided for under section 338E for breaches of schol-  
15 arship contracts under sections 338A.

16 **“SEC. 775-1. HURRICANE KATRINA AND RITA PUBLIC**  
17 **HEALTH WORKFORCE RECOVERY LOAN RE-**  
18 **PAYMENT PROGRAM.**

19 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall estab-  
20 lish the Hurricanes Katrina and Rita Public Health Work-  
21 force Loan Repayment Program (referred to in this sec-  
22 tion as the ‘Program’) to ensure an adequate supply of  
23 public health professionals to eliminate critical public  
24 health preparedness workforce shortages in Federal,  
25 State, local, and public health agencies, organizations, and

1 associations in areas directly affected by Hurricane  
2 Katrina or Rita.

3 “(b) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to participate in  
4 the Program, an individual shall—

5 “(1)(A) be accepted for enrollment, or be en-  
6 rolled, as a full-time or part-time student in an ac-  
7 credited academic educational institution in a State  
8 or territory in the final year of a course of study or  
9 program offered by that institution leading to a  
10 health professions degree or certificate, which may  
11 include a degree (graduate, undergraduate, or asso-  
12 ciate) or certificate relating to laboratory sciences,  
13 epidemiology, environmental health, health commu-  
14 nications, health education and behavioral sciences,  
15 information sciences, or public administration; or

16 “(B) have graduated, within 10 years, from an  
17 accredited educational institution in a State or terri-  
18 tory and received a health professions degree (grad-  
19 uate, undergraduate, or associate) or certificate,  
20 which may include a degree (graduate, under-  
21 graduate, or associate) or certificate related to lab-  
22 oratory sciences, epidemiology, environmental health,  
23 health communications, health education and behav-  
24 ioral sciences, psychology, physical therapy, geron-

1       tology, sociology, health policy, social work, informa-  
2       tion sciences, or public administration;

3               “(2)(A) in the case of an individual described in  
4       paragraph (1)(A), have accepted employment with a  
5       Federal, State, local, or tribal public health agency,  
6       as recognized by the Secretary, to commence upon  
7       graduation; or

8               “(B) in the case of an individual described in  
9       paragraph (1)(B), be employed by, or have accepted  
10      employment with, a Federal, State, or local public  
11      health agency, organization, or association, as recog-  
12      nized by the Secretary;

13              “(3) be a United States citizen;

14              “(4) submit an application to the Secretary to  
15      participate in the Program; and

16              “(5) sign and submit to the Secretary, at the  
17      time of the submittal of such application, a written  
18      contract (described in subsection (d)) to serve for  
19      the applicable period of obligated service in the full-  
20      time employment of a Federal, State, local, or tribal  
21      public health agency.

22              “(c) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.—

23              “(1) APPLICATION AND CONTRACT FORMS.—

24      The Secretary shall disseminate application forms  
25      and contract forms to individuals desiring to partici-

1       pate in the Program. The Secretary shall include  
2       with such forms—

3               “(A) a fair summary of the rights and li-  
4               abilities of an individual whose application is  
5               approved (and whose contract is accepted) by  
6               the Secretary, including in the summary a clear  
7               explanation of the damages to which the United  
8               States is entitled to recover in the case of the  
9               individual’s breach of the contract; and

10              “(B) information relating to the service ob-  
11              ligation and such other information as may be  
12              necessary for the individual to understand the  
13              individual’s prospective participation in the Pro-  
14              gram.

15              “(2) INFORMATION FOR SCHOOLS.—The Sec-  
16              retary shall distribute to health professions schools  
17              and other appropriate accredited academic institu-  
18              tions, health professions schools, Historically Black  
19              Colleges and Universities, Hispanic serving Institu-  
20              tions, Tribal Colleges and Universities, Asian-Amer-  
21              ican and Pacific Islander-serving institutions, sec-  
22              ondary educational institutions, and relevant Fed-  
23              eral, State, and local public health agencies, mate-  
24              rials providing information on the Program and  
25              shall encourage such schools, institutions, and agen-

1       cies to disseminate such materials to potentially eli-  
2       gible students.

3               “(3) UNDERSTANDABILITY, AND TIMING.—The  
4       application form, contract form, and all other infor-  
5       mation furnished by the Secretary under this section  
6       shall—

7                       “(A) be written in a manner calculated to  
8       be understood by the average individual apply-  
9       ing to participate in the Program; and

10                      “(B) be made available by the Secretary on  
11       a date sufficiently early to ensure that such in-  
12       dividuals have adequate time to carefully review  
13       and evaluate such forms and information.

14               “(4) SPECIAL CONSIDERATION.—Individuals  
15       who are eligible under subsection (b) shall be pro-  
16       vided special consideration if the individuals are  
17       from medically underserved communities, as defined  
18       in section 799B of the Public Health Service Act  
19       (42 U.S.C. 295p).

20               “(d) CONTRACT.—The written contract (referred to  
21       in this section) between the Secretary and an individual  
22       shall contain—

23                      “(1) an agreement on the part of the Secretary  
24       that the Secretary will repay on behalf of the indi-  
25       vidual loans incurred by the individual in the pursuit

1 of the relevant public health preparedness workforce  
2 educational degree or certificate in accordance with  
3 the terms of the contract;

4 “(2) an agreement on the part of the individual  
5 that the individual will serve, immediately upon  
6 graduation in the case of an individual described in  
7 subsection (b)(1)(A), or in the case of an individual  
8 described in subsection (b)(1)(B) will continue to  
9 serve, in the full-time employment of a Federal,  
10 State, or local public health agency, organization, or  
11 association in a position related to the course of  
12 study or program for which the contract was award-  
13 ed for a period of time (referred to in this section  
14 as the ‘period of obligated service’) equal to the  
15 greater of—

16 “(A) 4 years; or

17 “(B) such longer period of time as deter-  
18 mined appropriate by the Secretary and the in-  
19 dividual;

20 “(3) an agreement, as appropriate, on the part  
21 of the individual to relocate for the entire period of  
22 obligated service to a political jurisdiction designated  
23 by the Secretary to be a Hurricane Katrina or Rita  
24 priority service area in exchange for an additional  
25 loan repayment incentive amount that does not ex-

1       ceed 30 percent of the individual’s eligible loan re-  
2       payment award per academic year such that the  
3       total of the loan repayment and the incentive  
4       amount shall not exceed  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the eligible loan bal-  
5       ance per year;

6               “(4) in the case of an individual described in  
7       subsection (b)(1)(A) who is in the final year of study  
8       and who has accepted employment with a Federal,  
9       State, or local public health agency, organization, or  
10      association upon graduation, an agreement on the  
11      part of the individual to complete the education or  
12      training, maintain an acceptable level of academic  
13      standing (as determined by the education institution  
14      offering the course of study or training), and com-  
15      plete the period of obligated service;

16              “(5) a provision that any financial obligation of  
17      the United States arising out of a contract entered  
18      into under this section and any obligation of the in-  
19      dividual that is conditioned thereon, is contingent on  
20      funds being appropriated for loan repayments under  
21      this section;

22              “(6) a statement of the damages to which the  
23      United States is entitled under this section for the  
24      individual’s breach of the contract; and

1           “(7) such other statements of the rights and li-  
2           abilities of the Secretary and of the individual, not  
3           inconsistent with this section.

4           “(e) PAYMENTS.—

5           “(1) IN GENERAL.—A loan repayment provided  
6           for an individual under a written contract under the  
7           Program shall consist of payment, in accordance  
8           with paragraph (2), on behalf of the individual of  
9           the principal, interest, and related expenses on gov-  
10          ernment and commercial loans received by the indi-  
11          vidual regarding the undergraduate or graduate (or  
12          both) education of the individual, which loans were  
13          made for—

14                   “(A) tuition expenses; or

15                   “(B) any other reasonable educational ex-  
16                   penses, including fees, books, and laboratory ex-  
17                   penses, incurred by the individual.

18           “(2) PAYMENTS FOR YEARS SERVED.—

19                   “(A) IN GENERAL.—For each year of obli-  
20                   gated service that an individual contracts to  
21                   serve under subsection (d) the Secretary may  
22                   pay up to \$35,000 on behalf of the individual  
23                   for loans described in paragraph (1). With re-  
24                   spect to participants under the Program whose  
25                   total eligible loans are less than \$125,000, the

1 Secretary shall pay an amount that does not ex-  
2 ceed  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the eligible loan balance for each  
3 year of obligated service of the individual.

4 “(B) REPAYMENT SCHEDULE.—Any ar-  
5 rangement made by the Secretary for the mak-  
6 ing of loan repayments in accordance with this  
7 subsection shall provide that any repayments  
8 for a year of obligated service shall be made no  
9 later than the end of the fiscal year in which  
10 the individual completes such year of service.

11 “(3) TAX LIABILITY.—For the purpose of pro-  
12 viding reimbursements for tax liability resulting  
13 from payments under paragraph (2) on behalf of an  
14 individual—

15 “(A) the Secretary shall, in addition to  
16 such payments, make payments to the indi-  
17 vidual in an amount not to exceed 39 percent  
18 of the total amount of loan repayments made  
19 for the taxable year involved; and

20 “(B) may make such additional payments  
21 as the Secretary determines to be appropriate  
22 with respect to such purpose.

23 “(4) PAYMENT SCHEDULE.—The Secretary  
24 may enter into an agreement with the holder of any  
25 loan for which payments are made under the Pro-

1       gram to establish a schedule for the making of such  
2       payments.

3       “(f) POSTPONING OBLIGATED SERVICE.—With re-  
4       spect to an individual receiving a degree or certificate from  
5       a school of medicine, public health, nursing, osteopathic  
6       medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, optometry, po-  
7       diatry, pharmacy, psychology, or social work, the date of  
8       the initiation of the period of obligated service may be  
9       postponed, upon the submission by the individual of a peti-  
10      tion for such postponement and approval by the Secretary,  
11      to the date on which the individual completes an approved  
12      internship, residency, or other relevant public health pre-  
13      paredness advanced training program.

14      “(g) ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.—

15           “(1) HIRING PRIORITY.—Notwithstanding any  
16           other provision of law, Federal, State, local, and  
17           tribal public health agencies may give hiring priority  
18           to any individual who has qualified for and is willing  
19           to execute a contract to participate in the Program.

20           “(2) EMPLOYMENT CEILINGS.—Notwith-  
21           standing any other provision of law, individuals who  
22           have entered into written contracts with the Sec-  
23           retary under this section, who are serving as full-  
24           time employees of a State or local public health  
25           agency, or who are in the last year of public health

1 workforce academic preparation, shall not be count-  
2 ed against any employment ceiling affecting the De-  
3 partment or any other Federal agency.

4 “(h) BREACH OF CONTRACT.—An individual who  
5 fails to comply with the contract entered into under sub-  
6 section (d) shall be subject to the same financial penalties  
7 as provided for under section 338E for breaches of loan  
8 repayment contracts under section 338B.

9 **“SEC. 775-2. GRANTS FOR STATE AND LOCAL PROGRAMS IN**  
10 **HURRICANE KATRINA AND RITA AFFECTED**  
11 **AREAS.**

12 “(a) IN GENERAL.—For the purpose of operating  
13 Hurricane Katrina and Rita State and local public health  
14 workforce loan repayment programs, the Secretary shall  
15 award a grant to any public health agency, organization,  
16 or association that receives public health preparedness co-  
17 operative agreements, or other successor cooperative  
18 agreements, from the Department of Health and Human  
19 Services.

20 “(b) REQUIREMENTS.—A State or local loan repay-  
21 ment program operated with a grant under subsection (a)  
22 shall incorporate all provisions of the Hurricanes Katrina  
23 and Rita Public Health Workforce Loan Repayment Pro-  
24 gram under section 775–1, including the ability to des-

1 designate Hurricane Katrina and Rita priority service areas  
2 within the relevant political jurisdiction.

3 “(c) ADMINISTRATION.—The head of the State or  
4 local office that receives a grant under subsection (a) shall  
5 be responsible for contracting and operating the loan re-  
6 payment program under the grant.

7 “(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-  
8 tion shall be construed to obligate or limit any State or  
9 local government entity from implementing independent or  
10 supplemental public health workforce development pro-  
11 grams within their borders.

12 **“SEC. 775-3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

13 “(a) SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.—For the purpose of  
14 carrying out section 775, there is authorized to be appro-  
15 priated \$35,000,000 for fiscal year 2007, and such sums  
16 as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2008 through  
17 2012.

18 “(b) LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAMS.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—For the purpose of car-  
20 rying out sections 775–1 and 775–2, there is author-  
21 ized to be appropriated \$225,000,000 for fiscal year  
22 2007, and such sums as may be necessary for each  
23 of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.

24 “(2) ALLOCATION.—Not less than 80 percent  
25 of the amount appropriated under paragraph (1) in

1 each fiscal year shall be made available to carry out  
2 section 775-2.”.

3 **SEC. 4. CULTURAL COMPETENCE TRAINING FOR HEALTH**  
4 **CARE AND EMERGENCY RELIEF PROFES-**  
5 **SIONALS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and  
7 Human Services, acting through the Administrator of the  
8 Health Resources and Services Administration, the Dep-  
9 uty Assistant Secretary for Minority Health, and the Di-  
10 rector of the National Center on Minority Health and  
11 Health Disparities, shall award grants to eligible entities  
12 to test, implement, and evaluate models of cultural com-  
13 petence training, including continuing education, for  
14 health care and emergency relief providers.

15 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a grant  
16 under subsection (a), an entity shall—

17 (1) be an academic medical center, a health  
18 center or clinic, a hospital, a health plan, a health  
19 system, or a health care professional guild (including  
20 a mental health care professional guild);

21 (2) partner with a minority serving institution,  
22 minority professional association, or community-  
23 based organization representing minority popu-  
24 lations, in addition to a research institution to carry  
25 out activities under this grant; and

1           (3) prepare and submit to the Secretary an ap-  
2           plication at such time, in such manner, and con-  
3           taining such information as the Secretary may re-  
4           quire.

5           (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
6           authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
7           such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years  
8           2007 through 2012.

9           **SEC. 5. HEALTH CAREERS OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM.**

10          (a) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this section to  
11          diversify the health care workforce by increasing the num-  
12          ber of individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds in the  
13          health and allied health professions by enhancing the aca-  
14          demic skills of students from disadvantaged backgrounds  
15          and supporting them in successfully entering, competing  
16          in, and graduating from health professions training pro-  
17          grams.

18          (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section  
19          740(c) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.  
20          293d(c)) is amended by striking “\$29,400,000” and all  
21          that follows through “2002” and inserting “\$50,000,000  
22          for fiscal year 2007, and such sums as may be necessary  
23          for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012”.

1 **SEC. 6. PROGRAM OF EXCELLENCE IN HEALTH PROFES-**  
2 **SIONS EDUCATION FOR UNDERREP-**  
3 **RESENTED MINORITIES.**

4 (a) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this section to  
5 diversify the health care workforce by supporting pro-  
6 grams of excellence in designated health professions  
7 schools that demonstrate a commitment to under rep-  
8 resented minority populations with a focus on minority  
9 health issues, cultural and linguistic competence, and  
10 eliminating health disparities.

11 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATION.—Section  
12 736(h)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.  
13 293(h)(1)) is amended to read as follows:

14 “(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—  
15 For the purpose of making grants under subsection  
16 (a), there are authorized to be appropriated  
17 \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2007, and such sums as  
18 may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 2008  
19 through 2012.”.

20 **SEC. 7. NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS; RECRUITMENT**  
21 **AND FELLOWSHIPS FOR INDIVIDUALS FROM**  
22 **DISADVANTAGED BACKGROUNDS.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 331(b) of the Public  
24 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254d(b)) is amended by  
25 adding at the end the following:

1 “(3) The Secretary shall ensure that the individuals  
2 with respect to whom activities under paragraphs (1) and  
3 (2) are carried out include individuals from disadvantaged  
4 backgrounds, including activities carried out to provide  
5 health professions students with information on the Schol-  
6 arship and Loan Repayment Programs.”.

7 (b) ASSIGNMENT OF CORPS PERSONNEL.—Section  
8 333(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.  
9 254f(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

10 “(4) In assigning Corps personnel under this section,  
11 the Secretary shall give preference to applicants who re-  
12 quest assignment to a federally qualified health center (as  
13 defined in section 1861(aa) of the Social Security Act) or  
14 to a provider organization that has a majority of patients  
15 who are minorities or individuals from low-income families  
16 (families with a family income that is less than 200 per-  
17 cent of the Official Poverty Line).”.

18 **SEC. 8. LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM OF CENTERS FOR DIS-**

19 **EASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION.**

20 Section 317F(c) of the Public Health Service Act (42  
21 U.S.C. 247b–7(c)) is amended—

22 (1) by striking “and” after “1994,”; and

23 (2) by inserting before the period the following:

24 “\$750,000 for fiscal year 2007, and such sums as

1 may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 2008  
2 through 2012”.

3 **SEC. 9. MID-CAREER HEALTH PROFESSIONS SCHOLARSHIP**  
4 **PROGRAM.**

5 Part B of title VII of the Public Health Service Act  
6 is amended by adding at the end the following:

7 **“SEC. 742. MID-CAREER HEALTH PROFESSIONS SCHOLAR-**  
8 **SHIP PROGRAM.**

9 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make grants  
10 to eligible schools for awarding scholarships to eligible in-  
11 dividuals to attend the school involved, for the purpose of  
12 enabling the individuals to make a career change from a  
13 non-health profession to a health profession.

14 “(b) EXPENSES.— Amounts awarded as a scholar-  
15 ship under this section—

16 “(1) subject to paragraph (2), may be expended  
17 only for tuition expenses, other reasonable edu-  
18 cational expenses, and reasonable living expenses in-  
19 curred in the attendance of the school involved; and

20 “(2) may be expended for stipends to eligible  
21 individuals for the enrolled period at eligible schools,  
22 except that such a stipend may not be provided to  
23 an individual for more than 4 years, and such a sti-  
24 pend may not exceed \$35,000 per year (notwith-

1 standing any other provision of law regarding the  
2 amount of stipends).

3 “(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section: —

4 “(1) ELIGIBLE SCHOOL.—The term ‘eligible  
5 school’ means a school of medicine, osteopathic med-  
6 icine, dentistry, nursing (as defined in section 801),  
7 pharmacy, podiatric medicine, optometry, veterinary  
8 medicine, public health, chiropractic, or allied health,  
9 a school offering a graduate program in mental and  
10 behavioral health practice, or an entity providing  
11 programs for the training of physician assistants.

12 “(2) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—The term ‘eligible  
13 individual’ means an individual who has obtained a  
14 secondary school diploma or its recognized equiva-  
15 lent.

16 “(d) PRIORITY.—In providing scholarships to eligible  
17 individuals, eligible schools shall give priority to individ-  
18 uals who are from disadvantaged backgrounds and seek  
19 to work in areas affected by Hurricane Katrina or Rita.

20 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
21 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section,  
22 such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years  
23 2007 through 2012.”.

1 **SEC. 10. EMERGENCY MEDICAL AND RESCUE SERVICES**  
2 **FOR CHILDREN.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1910(a) of the Public  
4 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300w–9(a)) is amended—

5 (1) by striking “may make grants to States or  
6 accredited schools of medicine in States to support  
7 a program of demonstration projects for the expan-  
8 sion and improvement of emergency medical services  
9 for children who need treatment for trauma or crit-  
10 ical care” and inserting “may make grants to, or  
11 enter into contracts with, States, local government  
12 entities, Indian tribes, accredited schools of medi-  
13 cine, and nonprofit children’s hospitals to improve  
14 emergency medical services for children who need  
15 treatment for trauma or critical care, including in-  
16 jury prevention activities and data collection”;

17 (2) by striking “3-year” and inserting “4-year”;  
18 and

19 (3) by striking “4th” and inserting “5th”.

20 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Sub-  
21 section (d) of section 1910 of the Public Health Service  
22 Act (42 U.S.C. 300w–9) is amended—

23 (1) by striking “and” before such sums; and

24 (2) by inserting “\$65,000,000 for the period of  
25 fiscal years 2007 through 2010” before the period at  
26 the end.

1 **SEC. 11. BLOCK GRANTS TO STATES FOR SOCIAL SERVICES.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 2003  
3 and paragraphs (1) and (4) of section 2005(a) of the So-  
4 cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397b, 1397d(a)), the Sec-  
5 retary of Health and Human Services shall make addi-  
6 tional payments under title XX of the Social Security Act  
7 (42 U.S.C. 1397 et seq.) to States directly affected by  
8 Hurricane Katrina or Rita for health services (including  
9 mental health services); for health professional recruit-  
10 ment, training, and retention programs; and for repair,  
11 renovation, and construction of health facilities (including  
12 mental health facilities).

13 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry  
14 out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated  
15 \$750,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2007 through  
16 2009.

○